

ANNEX ASUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY VIEWS ON ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY PROJECT AND BILLS RELATING THERETO.

(Prepared in the Office of Legislative Reference, Bureau of the Budget. Dates stated refer to dates on which letters were sent to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.)

State (March 20) -- State favors U.S. participation in the Seaway project. It also notes that (1) Canada attaches urgency to the development of power which it considers vitally urgent for the industrial and defense economy of Ontario, and (2) Canada also desires that completion of the seaway not be delayed.

Defense (pending) -- Defense states that the Department has consistently and vigorously supported the navigation and power phases of the St. Lawrence Seaway project as important to the national defense from both a long and a short-term point of view. It states that the Department's statements made in 1952 to this effect are even more timely now than last year, since Canada has indicated its desire to proceed unilaterally on construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway if the United States does not decide to participate. Defense states that if Canada proceeds unilaterally, the United States would be precluded from exercising an equal voice in the control of traffic through the Seaway, not only in time of peace but also when the United States is at war; and that only by United States participation now in construction of the Seaway can the United States be assured of active participation in its future operation and control. In summary, Defense strongly favors participation by the United States at this time in the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway. While Defense offers no comment on the use of a government corporation to implement United States participation, it does suggest that the Congress give consideration to an amendment which would assign construction to the Army Corps of Engineers. The Department recommends early enactment of one of the bills or resolutions pending before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

General Robinson, Deputy Chief of Engineers, was the lead-off witness April 14, in the Senate Committee hearings. He expressed the Corps of Engineers' views concerning the project and in his prepared statement dealt specifically with (1) desirability of co-construction with Canada; (2) soundness of the corporation approach; (3) deepening of the Great Lakes connecting channels; and (4) the attitude toward the New York State-Ontario power application. He also submitted brief statements on (1) the economic and self-liquidation of the navigation phase of the St. Lawrence projects; (2) adequacy of the 27 ft. project; (3) traffic capacity; (4) mobilization and construction schedules; and (5) first year fund requirements.